

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 and 22-33 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 11 and 14-17 as indicated below.

Please add claims 34-38 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-38 in the present patent application is provided below.

1-10 (Cancelled).

11 (Currently Amended). A vehicle ~~having an existing rear suspension and~~ converted for enabling or improving accessibility to the vehicle, wherein the vehicle is converted by fitment of ~~with~~ a conversion assembly comprising substitute rear suspension mountings ~~for fixing~~ fixed to a chassis ~~the~~ structure of the vehicle in place of ~~the existing~~ original rear suspension mountings that are removed from the chassis structure to facilitate lowering of ~~such that~~ a portion of a floorpan of the vehicle directly between rear wheels of the vehicle, and wherein the portion of the floorpan is ~~can be~~ lowered directly between ~~said~~ the substitute rear suspension mountings.

12 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the conversion assembly is such that the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly from a rear entrance of the

vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a driver's position to enable the occupant of the wheelchair to drive the vehicle from the wheelchair.

13 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle has wheelchair accessibility to the rear of the vehicle through a doorway at the rear of the vehicle.

14 (Currently Amended). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substitute rear suspension mountings are independent rear suspension mountings that are fixed to the chassis structure of the vehicle in place of existing original rear suspension mountings ~~comprises a rear beam axle~~.

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15 (Currently Amended). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 760mm wide between rear wheels of the vehicle.

16 (Currently Amended). The vehicle as claimed in claim 15, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 840mm wide between rear wheels of the vehicle.

17 (Currently Amended). The vehicle as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is 850mm wide

between rear wheels of the vehicle.

18 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is substantially flat.

19 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle is provided with a restraining belt, the restraining belt being anchored to the vehicle at either side of a space in which a wheelchair is to be located during driving of the vehicle, for restraining the occupant of the wheelchair.

20 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 19, wherein the belt is anchored to the vehicle on one side of the space in which the wheelchair is to be located during driving of the vehicle, by way of a belt mounting frame fixed to the structure of the vehicle.

21 (Previously Presented). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle is provided with locking restraints for locking a wheelchair in place during driving of the vehicle.

22-33 (Cancelled).

34 (New). The vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of the substitute rear suspension mountings includes:

an independent rear trailing arm suspension component comprising an elongated arm having a pivotal coupling at a front end thereof for enabling the elongated arm to pivot with respect to the chassis structure of the vehicle about an axis substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the elongated arm;

a wheel mounting for mounting a wheel of the vehicle longitudinally spaced from an axis of rotation of the elongated arm;

a spring mounting for mounting a spring between the elongated arm and the chassis structure of the vehicle; and

a shock absorber mounting for mounting a shock absorber between the elongated arm and the chassis structure of the vehicle.

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35 (New). The vehicle as claimed in claim 34, wherein the pivotal coupling comprises a bearing arrangement at the front end of the elongated arm.

36 (New). The vehicle as claimed in claim 34, wherein the shock absorber mounting comprises a shock absorber mounting bracket at a rear end of the elongated arm.

37 (New). The vehicle as claimed in claim 34, wherein the spring comprises at least one of a coil spring and an air spring, and wherein the spring mounting comprises a seating in an upper surface of the elongated arm for receiving a lower end of the at least one of the coil spring and the air spring.

38 (New). The vehicle as claimed in claim 34, wherein the wheel mounting comprises a wheel mounting bracket mounted to an outer side of the elongated arm.